

Dear «District_Supt_Title»«District_Supt_Prefix» «District_Supt_Fname» «District_Supt_Lname»,

I hope your summer is going well! I am writing to ensure the receipt of the 2016 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) materials and to see if you had any questions about the assessment. «District_Name» will play an important role by participating, and I know your support of the assessment will help ensure this is a meaningful experience for your schools and students. For your convenience, I have attached «District_Name»'s list of selected schools along with the selected assessment type, assessment date, and an endorsement of NAEP by State Superintendent Denise Juneau. As in previous years, federal NAEP field staff will administer the assessment, bring all necessary materials, and provide significant support to schools. Please include the NAEP assessment window (January 25 to March 4, 2016) on your district test calendar. Starting in late July, each school principal will receive their NAEP assessment date. Schools may work with OPI's NAEP State Coordinator if there is a conflict with the scheduled assessment date.

«District_Name» was chosen to represent the nation during the NAEP digitally based pilot assessments (DBA) for mathematics, reading, and writing. These assessments will be given on NAEP provided tablets with keyboards at grades 4, 8, and 12. Results from these pilot assessments will not be released but they will be used to inform future NAEP assessments. The NAEP reading and mathematics pilot tests for grades 4 and 8 are considered by the U.S. Department of Education, including the Title I office, as required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization of 2001 for any district receiving Title I funding.

ANSWERS TO TWO FREQUENT QUESTIONS:

Q: Is participation in NAEP testing mandatory?

A: Participation in mathematics and reading in grades 4 and 8 is required under the ESEA reauthorization of 2001 for any district receiving Title I funding. In 2003, participation became a requirement in all states/territories and school districts receiving Title I funding.

«District_Name» «Title_I_Participation_Requirement»; therefore «School_Name»'s participation in the NAEP assessment «Required_YN».

Q: If NAEP is based on a random sample, why are we picked so often?

A: The national year sampling design does not use the same technical process used by NCES to draw the state NAEP year sample. When the NAEP samples are drawn to provide national representation rather than individual state representation, the selection process is somewhat different. Rather than selecting schools directly from lists of schools, the first stage of sampling involves selecting a basic geographic sampling unit (i.e., counties within states). The next aspect in national year selection is to obtain schools within the selected sampling unit. The last aspect of selection is to obtain a random selection of students within the selected schools. For more information about this process, please visit: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tdw/sample_design/

For additional information, visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. You may also contact me directly via e-mail at amcgrath@mt.gov or by telephone at (406) 444-3450. Your questions are always welcome.

Thank you for your time and for supporting this important national study.

Sincerely,

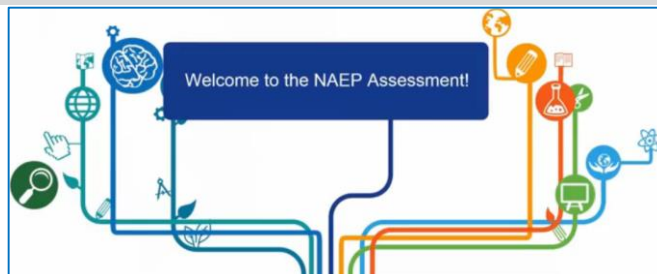


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WANT MORE INFORMATION?



[DBA Information](#)



[What Is The Assessment Like?](#)



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Enclosures:

- Memorandum from Denise Juneau
- List of Schools Selected for NAEP